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Hook, Line, and Sinker

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New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen • P.O. Box 294 • New Ulm, MN 56073 Web Site: newulmsportfish.org

Don't Let This Happen To You

by Robb Anderson Courtesy of: <http://myfishingpals.com>

The night was filled with anticipation. For weeks, my young son, Cody, who was ten years old at the time, had looked forward to his first trip, with Dad, to the third river flowage by Lake Winnibigoshish in Minnesota. He had listened to all the stories of past trips. How it was not uncommon to see forty pike a day come through a spear hole. Now, on the eve of our adventure, my friend Dave and I entertained all the questions a 10 year old could muster up regarding the sport of spearing.

The next morning, we left the motel early and headed for the access. The day was filled with promise as we headed onto the ice on the trustworthy Polaris. We had brought only one sled on this trip and it required a couple trips to haul equipment and a certain eager young fisherman to our intended destination a half mile away.

The northern action was slow and after a couple of hours Cody got impatient. But being the little trooper that he was, he soon discovered a quantity of nice jumbo perch hanging at the bottom. We quickly rigged for perch and in no time the smiles became larger and the five gallon pail began to fill with perch. A heavy fog started to settle upon us and a snowstorm had begun. We were monitoring the weather and everybody decided that we could stick it out for the evening pike run.

This is when the trouble began. After we had a few nice pike on the ice, dark was soon approaching. Dave and I were making plans to navigate back to the access. We had decided to make a gear run first and warm up the truck for Cody. Because of the declining temperatures, it was decided that we would let Cody stay warm in the house while we made the first run. After packing

gear, covering the spear hole, and giving Cody instructions to stay in the house, we closed the door and proceeded to get under way.

Now, that trusty Polaris, that always started on the first pull, was not cooperating. I look back at it now and truly believe there was some higher power at work that night. If that sled had started Dave and I would have been half way to the access. That is when we heard a scream that I will never forget and haunts me to this day. It seems Cody had backed up onto a corner of the hole cover tipped it and had fallen in!

I rushed into the house. If you have ever heard of the power of adrenalin, I will attest the fact that all the stories are true. As I entered the house all I could see was my son's head and elbows protruding from the hole as legs thrashed wildly trying to vainly pull himself from the hole. With one pull on the back of his jacket I lifted his soaked body back onto the floor of the house.

We rushed him to the access, started the truck heater, and stripped him of his wet clothing. It took the rest of a sleepless night, fraught with worry, to get his body temperature back to normal.

That was eight years ago and I still thank the powers that be that I have my son to fish with. One stupid decision on the part of a young father could have changed all that.

The Polaris? We still have it and, to this day, it starts with one pull.

I ask you to please take a kid fishing but watch over them. They are way too precious to lose. Don't let this happen to you.

Club Calendar

January 17th NUASF Social Night at Club House
January 31st(Eric Olson Steak Night)...NUASF Club Meeting
February 7thNUASF prize meeting at Club House
February 10thNUASF Ice Fishing Contest Clear Lake

February 14th (Valentine's Day)NUASF trip to Dixon Lake Resort
February 28th NUASF Club Meeting
March 14th NUASF Social Night at Club House
March 28th NUASF Club Meeting

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From the President.....

By Jason Kuester

As most of you all know Eric Olson will be visiting us at our next meeting. Eric is a wonderful asset to our club and we would like to THANK him for his support. Eric donates trips for our Fishing Contest, membership drive, and also provides us with a great STEAK meal at our January meeting. To help with this great meal we are asking everyone to please bring a dish to pass. Eric will also be bringing extra hamburger along to the next meeting if you are interested in purchasing some from him.

P.S. Eric will be serving the meal before the meeting! Gate will be open at 5:30 PM

As everyone knows our Clubs Ice Fishing Contest is February 10th. We should have the prizes collected, and posters in place within the next couple weeks. Ticket sales can continue up to the day of the contest. Once again this is our clubs biggest money maker, and we will need many volunteers for this event. Tickets and posters are available at the next meeting or by contacting Ross Nelson 507-766-7076 or myself at 507-381-2041 or e-mail at jr@newulmtel.net and we will get you as many as you would like.

All prizes must be turned into the club on or before Thursday February 8th. We will be having a special meeting on the 7th at 5:00 pm to organize all of the prizes for the contest.

Todd and Karen from the Dixon Lake Resort are very excited to have our club back at their resort this year. They have also donated a four person fishing trip as one of our prizes for the fishing contest we will have in February. **The date for the trip is February 14th**. We have 20 people signed up for this trip. We still have 10 spots open if you are interested in going along on this trip please contact me ASAP at 507-381-2041 or e-mail at jr@newulmtel.net. The total for the trip is \$140.00 per person for three nights, or \$200.00 per person food included. Todd and Karen also said there would be no charge for the angling and spear- ing houses this year. They have room for 24 people in their angling houses and about 25 spearing houses available. This is first come first serve, so if you need an ice house let me know. *If you are unable to attend the meeting and need to pay your \$50.00 down payment send it to Jason Kuester 56554-446th Street New Ulm, Mn 56073.*

Winter is here and what a great time to bring our friends and family to the New Ulm Area Sport Fisherman Club. We are always looking for new members to join. If you know of someone bring them along and show them how much fun we have at our club. As always, bring a friend and each of you will receive a free refreshment of your choice!

Hope to see you at the next meeting!!

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Hook, Line, and Sinker

The Hook Line and Sinker is published monthly by Master Graphics for New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of respective writers and not to be construed as the opinion of the NUASF or its members. Send all correspondence and submissions to New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, P.O. Box 294, New Ulm, MN 56073.

The NUASF Board

President - Jason Kuester 507-381-2041; Vice-President - Gary Sprenger 507-359-9358; Secretary - Mike Studtmann 507-766-0765; Treasurer - Jen Kuester 507-766-0143; Board Members: Mike Buechner 507-354-2739, Wyman Forbrook 507-420-5828, Wes Ludewig 507-276-6092.

NUASF Monthly Meeting December 20, 2018

Members Present: 38 + 4 guests

I. Secretary Report - Approved as read.

II. Treasury Report - Approved as read.

III. Old Business

A. Membership: 141 Members, 19 Due, 0 New for a total of 9.

B. Area Lakes and Rivers Report:

- Ice is bad, remember ice picks! Jason spoke of what to do if you go through the ice.
- Winnie is cloudy but good ice.
- South Heron Lake. Little Slough south of Westbrook.
- Loon has anywhere from 10" to open water.

C. Club House & Grounds News:

- Thanks Wes for plowing the clubhouse
- New door lock put in by Mike Deinken.

D. Other Old Business:

- 501c-3 with Ron Bouldan is set up and running with the history learning center.

IV. New Business

• **Membership drive winner**

- Amanda Wold with 2 members, getting her a jacket.

A. Club Ice Fishing Contest (Feb 10th)

- Prize collection Sign Up (Keith Rolloff)
- Ticket Sale Update (Sell, Sell, Sell)
- Food License/ Food Committee (Tom S.) – Signup sheet for helpers will be coming. Getting permit after 1st of the year so it's good all year.

B. Winter Fishing Trip – Dixon Lake

- February 14th – 17th, 2019
- \$140 for cabin, \$200 total w/ food, \$50 deposit to Jason.
- 21 people signed up, few rooms open.

C. Other New Business:

- High Island Update: Jan 19th is contest (ice or not!) Registration starts at 9am, 10-2 is contest. Little food wagon will be on site. Commissioner assigned draw down of lake. Gave update on items the organization has been doing. Club made a motion and approved to give donation to the organization.
- Travis with Cottonwood County Game & Fish (Windom) – Thanks for the Oxygen Tester. 300+ members with 10 active. Have a gambling permit. Aeration system was taken over by the younger members, looking for advice on how to maintain. Do a lot of work with the DNR, help milk eggs on Sara Lake, bought them jars and tanks to give them the opportunity to harvest more. Spoke of other projects the club is involved in, archery club, etc. Put a bunch of bioreactors in Fish Lake.
- Donation by the 3M foundation. Would like to keep in mind for the board, to set aside Tony's portion to go to Learning Center for Ron.
- Jim H looking at newsletter and seeing ads are out of date for business that are no longer in business.

V. Food for next meeting - Eric Olson, eat before meeting at 5:30.

VI. Meeting Adjourn @ 8:52 PM

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